laid on the Board of Directors of sick industrial companies u/s 15 (1) of the Sick industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, the Central Government or the Reserve Bank or a State Government or a Public Financial Institution or a State Level Institution or a Scheduled Bank may also make a reference u/s 15 (2) if it has sufficent reasons to believe that any particular industrial company has become a sick industrial company. As on 29.2.92, 1146 companies were registered with the BIFR which includes 78 cases u/s 15 (2). BIFR has further reported that it does not separately compile the references made by various State Governments.

(b) and (c). Data on disposal of references registered as on 29.2.92, as furnished by BIFR, is as follows:

References registered	1146
Dismissed as not maintainable Approval accorded u/s 17(2)	194
of the Act after the Board is satisfied that the company itself can make its networth positive.	127
Schemes sanctioned u/s 18(4) of the Act	229
Winding up recommended to the concerned High Court u/s 20(1)	161
Others	4

BIFR has reported that the remaining 431 cases are under various stages of processing

Aids in Servicemen

4990. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIDS the dreaded disease has made inroads into Indian Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent this dreaded disease into the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE. (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). 81 cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection have been detected in the Indian Armed Forces from 1987 (inception of surveillance) to January 92. There has been no case of full blown Acquired Immuno Defeciency Syndrome (AIDS). 62 of them had history of promiscuous sexual exposure.

(c). Some of the important preventive steps taken are-

(i) Blood is obtained only from voluntary donors among the Service personnel. Facility for testing donated blood has been expanded

(ii) Special care to ensure disfinfec tion of instruments. Disposable syringes are used.

(iii) infected cases are kept under surveillance to limit the transmission of infection to others

(iv) 7 Centres carry out surveillance for HIV infection in the Armed Forces. Blood donors and high risk cases are screened for HIV infection at these Centres.

(v) Troops and their families are apprised of the dangers and the methods of prevention of this disease.